

ment; the careful mother would have seen at a glance that John was busy and Jim idle, and the latter boy would have been sent in the first place. Then, of all things the father should never be held up as a machine to whom the mother has only to offer her tale-bearing—for it comes to be nothing else—and, on the principle of the nickel in the slot, a whipping is forthcoming. Nothing is more demoralizing. The boys soon learn to deceive, and to keep things from their father, and to despise the mother for giving orders that she can not enforce, and the down-hill course has begun. It is warranted to make a bad boy out of a model in a very short space of time.

"Oh, dear," says one mother, "my boys are so bad! How do you keep yours so well behaved? I just can't have them in the house, they are so quarrelsome, and it is a relief when they are out of the yard." Does she stop to reflect that her boys must be somewhere; that they can not annihilate themselves because they trouble her? Happy mother if they do not go out from her sight and reach, and leave her heart aching for their noise.

How simple a matter it would be, if she just thought of it, to get together some tools and boards in the barn or basement, and a turning-pole in the yard, or some jig-saws and electrical batteries in an unused room, and forestall the so-called badness. Then if she could learn to distinguish between noise and ungentlemanly rudeness or real rudeness. Why, a boy if healthy and bright, is bound to make noise. As well sit on the safety valve of an engine because the hissing steam disturbs you, as an attempt to cork up a boy's noise; in either case there will be an explosion. Look the matter squarely in the face, and supply a safety-valve for the escape of the noise, and something for all that eager, untried mechanism of muscle and brain to work on, then win or keep the boy's confidence, and there will be little governing to do.

Your true boy is a staunch upholder of justice, and if you wish his respect and obedience you must be just and true-grained. Veneer and varnish will never deceive him, however well they may pass muster in the grown-up world. But there is not in all the grown-up world so much forgiveness as in one true boy's heart; and he is always ready and willing to forgive and blot out all remembrance of any mistake or error on your part if you will own up to it. He looks on the motives and intents; so take care that you keep them pure.

Here, then, is the statement. Given a boy—let us say it reverently; let us bow

down our hearts in thankfulness to the One who in his mercy has seen fit to bestow on us such a gift, to place in our care a human life that, tender and impressionable, must receive from our influence so much of weal or woe. Given a boy; next, given an abundance of overflowing life, of strong, growing muscles aching to be used, of eager inquiry into the whys and wherefores of everything about him; now put in connection with these plenty of time, and is it not plain that what we must supply is material to work on? Work he will, for he cannot help it, and if he is obliged to look everywhere for occupation, and be met at nearly every turn with a don't, will it be any wonder if now and then this new, untried energy and force run into forbidden channels and become mischief?

If, on the other hand, such occupation be provided as will call into use all these abilities and give them a safe outlet, there will be almost no inclination toward mischief or wrong-doing. Boys are a far finer set of beings than people give them credit for, and their loyalty to that which proves itself worthy, and appeals to their higher impulses and aspirations, is something inspiring; but, if you would arouse this, you must yourself at least aim honestly to have such possibilities of character as will call out the boy's affection and kindle his trust.

To me, it seems very plain that the easiest, most simple, and certainly most effective way of dealing with that boy is to be honest with him, never betray his confidence, and keep him busy. And what a wealth of treasure he will bring into your life! How he will fan into glowing flame your smouldering zeal, and ambition, and wind the tendrils of his life around your very heart strings! And when he goes out of your life, what an emptiness and aching pain he will leave behind!—*Gussie Packard Dubois, in Interior.*

#### TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE HOME.

It is better to be silent than to say unwise or unkind things.

Do not boast of birth, wealth, influential friends or bodily prowess.

Look at those who address you; but in speaking to others do not stare at them.

Remember that a servant is a man or a woman, and will appreciate treatment as such.

A compliment to be appreciated by any sensible person, must be prompted by sincerity.

Never urge another to do anything against his desire, unless there is danger before him.—*Selected.*

#### TWO KINDS OF HOUSEKEEPERS.

The army of women who have to help themselves, is far greater than the army well flanked with assistants. To this greater army my talk is directed. There are two distinct types of housekeepers—ambitious, both of them. The first (and all we have seen of her) keeps up a continual warfare against dirt and disorder. So rigid does she become that once in her house one feels depressed by its austere, gloomy faultlessness. Painfully precise in the position of every article in her domain, in a flurried, snatchy way she entertains. On leaving, one feels the housekeeper's valuable time has been sacrificed by the intruded visit. How gladly we leave her to herself and her all-absorbing duties! Refreshing is the change of atmosphere when we enter the home of the woman who is mistress, not servant of her work. Comfort, kindness, greet the visitor. Cheery plants nod a welcome, cosy corners bow to rest. Books and magazines suggest the cultivation of thought. The broad-minded, philosophic housewife knows that relaxation from worries and treadmill maneuvers are necessary.—*Womankind.*

#### READING AT HOME.

The habit of reading, acquaintance with good literature, and love of it, are almost always home products. Taste for reading is most easily acquired in early years, and without effort in a family atmosphere favorable to it. Commonly the most important, the determining years of training for a child are between the ages of five and ten, and this is as true with regard to the mental growth that comes by means of books as it is with regard to the habits and the character that make for a useful and honorable life. I do not say a successful life; for the word success is very much misunderstood. If I did use it in relation to human career I should not mean by it the production of a selfish, unscrupulous, rich man. There are many cases in which men and women, by native force of favoring circumstances, have overcome the lack of early home advantages, the want of an intelligent home atmosphere and of books, but for the majority the home life is a determining feature in a man's intellectual life—that is to say, in regard to self-cultivation and the development of the finer graces of the mind—from which come the greatest enjoyment and satisfaction amidst the struggles and discouragements of this world.—*Charles Dudley Warner, in Good House-keeping.*

God judges no preacher's work by the great audiences he draws.